**Research Proposal: Guidelines**

Students can choose the format that is most comfortable for them, an outline, a narrative, a list of bullet points, etc.

The proposal should cover these points, giving the reader a clear notion of what you are proposing to do, how you are planning to do it, and why it is worth doing, for you and in general.

* Describing the issue – examples
  + I am looking at father/daughter relationships as portrayed in three ballads
  + I am looking a the way doctors are portrayed in several songs and ballads
  + I will use ballads to show the status of gypsies in popular culture.
  + I will examine the concept of fate as it occurs in two ballads
  + I will examine different ways that performers approach a traditional ballad
  + I will look at the life and career of a singer/song writer or group.
* Explain why the research is worth the time and effort you will put into it - examples
  + The father/daughter relationship is a powerful component of the nuclear family which is central in all human cultures. The relationship differs from culture to culture and from one period of history to another. Depending on the parameters of the relationship, there are strains that are both predictable and powerful. Ballads are compressed stories, good sources
  + It is useful to look at the role of medical professionals in different cultural and historical settings. Ballads provide a pathway to looking at doctors in popular culture.
  + Gypsies are people of the nomadic Romany culture. Their nomadic nature makes them marginal in the various countries and areas they pass through and use. There are many ballads that feature gypsies as main characters. Looking at these ballads will give us an appreciation of the way people view these people in particular and outsiders in general
  + American culture has little room for the concept of fate. People are thought to have to capacity to determine the circumstances of their lives, particularly as adults. Looking at ballads that address the role of fate, chance, or circumstance in American life will perhaps show the existence of contrary views.
  + If different performers take radically different approaches to the same text, we will be able to see ways that change occurs as time passes.
  + Musical artist play an important role in American Society and the American economy it is useful to examine that role
* Describing your methods – examples
  + I will use UNM Library searches and Conventional seach engines to locate pertinent materials
  + I will obtain audio files of the songs/ballads and the appropriate lyrics
  + I will use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concepts to analyze the materials
  + I will ask people to listen to the ballads and note their comments
  + I will read essays and reviews of the ballads
* Note a couple of things specifically ie, which ballads, which renditions, what references you have as a starting point (do not use Wikipedia as a reference here but you certainly may use references you find in Wikipedia.

The proposal should be a page or two in length, no more and use a conventional 12 point font (Calibri, Times New Roman, Arial, or Courier.